



Georgia HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Media Services Office

Media Decorum

1. All correspondents must be engaged in the gathering and reporting of news, dress in professional attire and adhere to journalistic standards of integrity and conduct at all times.
2. Doorkeepers ensure that members of the media trying to access the House floor are wearing proper identification. Remember, credentials must be worn and be visible at all times to gain entrance to the House floor.
3. The House floor has a strict dress code that requires collared shirts and jackets for men. Because we understand that it would be impractical for photographers and camerapersons to meet this requirement, the dress code is slightly more flexible for members of the media; however, all members of the media are expected to dress professionally. Members of the media may **not** wear denim pants or shorts on the House floor, or shorts of any kind.
4. Credentialed members of the media are allowed access to the House floor before the legislative day convenes, but must exit the floor 30 minutes before the House is scheduled to convene.
5. After the daily devotional period, credentialed members of the media may enter the House floor for the purpose of locating a member to request an interview or to take photo or video clip.
6. Reporters may have access to the House floor during session only to request that a representative leave the House floor for an interview. Following the request, reporters must leave the House floor immediately.
7. Interviews may **not** be conducted on the House floor, in the hallway between the press galleries on the House floor or inside the ropes located outside of the main entrance to the House Chamber while the House is in session. Interviews may be conducted in the South Anteroom or in the Capitol hallways. The South Anteroom is located between the Speaker's office and the House Chamber. The media alcoves on the 3rd and 4th floors are well suited for interviews.
8. Interviews may **not** be conducted on the House floor when the House is "at ease." Reporters may only request that representatives leave the House floor for an interview during that time.
9. Members of the media may only wait for a representative in the South Anteroom if the member of the media has already requested an interview with the particular representative.

10. Members of the media may **not** enter or use the center aisle of the House floor. Nor may any members of the media encroach upon the area around the well.
11. Members of the media may use cell phones and other mobile devices to take photos in the House Chamber. Cell phones and mobile devices may be utilized for photography on the House floor only to obtain a particular photo or video clip.
12. Photographers and camerapersons may have access to the House floor while the House is in session, but must stay along the walls and as out of the way as possible. Photographers and camerapersons are asked to limit their time on the House floor to that which is necessary to obtain a particular photo or video clip.
 - Click [here](#) for the House Chamber Media Access Map.
13. Photographers and camerapersons may **not** take photos or film representatives' desks or documents or objects on the desks, including laptop and cell phone screens, unless permission is granted by a representative. Even if you are granted permission by a representative, you may still be approached by the Sergeant-at-Arms, a doorkeeper, another representative or a member of the House Media Services office.
14. Tripods are not allowed on the House floor while the House is in session. Tripods may be set up in the television/radio press gallery.
15. The front row of the print press gallery is reserved for permanently credentialed print members of the media.
16. If the number of photographers and camerapersons is excessive or creates a disturbance or disruption, the presiding officer may have them removed from the House floor.
17. Members of the media may **not** block the door between the South Anteroom and the House floor.
18. During the daily devotional period, members of the media who are in the press gallery or South Anteroom should refrain from having conversations or otherwise disturbing the devotional period.
19. Members of the media may **not** enter the North Anteroom (by the television/radio press gallery) for any reason. The restroom in the North Anteroom is reserved for representatives only.
20. Media credentials do not afford members of the media access to the House Chamber during the interim or when the House is otherwise not in session.
21. Credentialed members of the media may not act as members of the media if they are visiting the House floor as a guest. A guest credential takes precedence over a media credential.

22. Gallery seating on the 4th floor is always open to the public. Media credentials are not required to monitor session proceedings from the 4th floor. Per House Rule 8.2, the use of cameras, video cameras, movie cameras, cell phone cameras and similar devices in the gallery during any speech or legislative proceeding is prohibited.
23. Media credentials are not required to cover public **committee and subcommittee hearings**.
24. Interviews may not be conducted inside committee rooms while committee hearings are taking place.
25. Members of the media may not access committee rooms for the purpose of filming when committee meetings are not taking place.
26. Media credentials do not exempt members of the media from Capitol security checkpoints. Media credentials do not grant Capitol access before the building opens or after the building closes.
27. These procedures may be enforced by House staff at any time.